

Wells Fargo Presents



**Blumenthal Performing Arts
High School Musical Theater Awards**

2021 Blumey Awards Handbook

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BLUMENTHAL PERFORMING ARTS MISSION

To present the best in the performing arts and, in partnership with others, share and employ the arts as a major catalyst to strengthen education, build community cohesiveness, and advance economic growth.

THE BLUMEY AWARDS MISSION

To recognize, reward, and encourage talent and achievement in musical theater among high school students within the Charlotte region. The Blumey Awards program is a means to highlight the importance of musical theater and arts education within our extended community.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION / BLUMEY AWARDS CALENDAR

Blumenthal Performing Arts will invite public, private, and charter high schools within the Greater Charlotte Region that were registered for the 2020 Blumey Awards program to participate in the modified 2021 Blumey Awards program*. Returning schools that submit their applications to Blumenthal's Education Department by December 15, 2020 will be guaranteed participation *if their auditions meet certain criteria*:

1. Occur within the program's adjudication window period of February 1-March 26, 2021
2. Located within the 16 counties of the designated Charlotte Region (see county list under Program Rules and Regulations on page 4).
3. Utilize material from a musical production eligible for the 2021 National High School Musical Theater Awards competition (The Jimmy Awards)

Schools will be asked to provide adjudication date and time preferences. Blumenthal Performing Arts will make every effort to schedule adjudication at one of the requested dates and times or will work with the school to identify an alternate time. School adjudication dates are determined on a first-come, first-served basis.

*Blumenthal Performing Arts reserves the right to invite additional schools to participate based on unique qualifying circumstances.

2021 AWARDS CATEGORIES

Awards will be given for excellence in the following categories:

Best Actor
Best Actress

ADJUDICATION

Due to impacts of coronavirus, this year's program will be heavily modified; this approach is a place holder only, utilizing an "audition package" model instead of full productions, to continue the celebration of musical theatre in our schools while providing students the opportunity to perform during a year when the majority of schools in our service region are not able to produce musicals.

1. Each participating school must select a minimum of 4 male and 4 female identifying students and a maximum of 20 students total to audition for their Best Actor and Best Actress nominee.
2. A digital *Student Information* form must be submitted a minimum of two weeks prior to my first-round audition date, providing the required information for the students participating including the qualifying show/role they will use for their audition selections.
3. Students auditioning must meet any school criteria/requirements to be eligible for approved absences to attend the two-day Intensive (see below) should they be awarded the Best Actor/Actress nominee

4. Selected students will perform solo pieces for adjudication by a panel of three carefully selected judges.
5. Auditionees must provide a resume and headshot.
6. During their respective time slots, students will slate, sing a full song and perform a 60 second or less monologue from an approved role and production. The song and monologue must be from the same character in the same show.
7. Judges will assess/score according to detailed guidelines and provide completed rubrics with constructive feedback for each student's audition package as a learning tool.
8. The male and female identifying student with highest scores will be awarded the school's Best Actor and Best Actress nominee. The format and date for this announcement is TBD.

RESUME AND HEADSHOT

It is MANDATORY that each student provides 4 copies of their acting resume and headshot at each round of adjudication. Resumes must be one page, 8x10 with a full-color headshot on the back. Blumenthal's Education department will offer a virtual seminar on how to prepare a resume and headshot. A digital copy of each student's resume and headshot must be submitted to Blumenthal's Education department prior to their adjudication date.

AUDITION PACKAGE SLATE

Each actor should slate at the beginning of their audition. The slate should include the actor's name, audition number, song title and show title. For example, "My name is Sarah John, audition number 7, and I will sing 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' and perform a monologue from *The Wizard of Oz*."

Actors should conclude their audition by reiterating their name, audition number and saying 'thank you'. 'May name is Sarah John, number 7. Thank you for your time.'

ACCOMPANIMENT

Each school must provide their students with an accompaniment track (no vocals or backing; no karaoke tracks if they have backup vocals) or a live accompanist for the first round of adjudication. Students who advance to the second round, the school's Best Actor/Best Actress nominees, must bring full sheet music for their song to the intensive workshops and second round adjudication; an accompanist will be provided for the intensive workshops and the second-round. Blumenthal's Education department can assist with providing accompanist contacts for schools who need to record tracks or wish to contract a live accompanist; however, Blumenthal is not responsible for providing or paying for first round accompaniment.

BEST ACTOR/ACTRESS INTENSIVE

Each school's Best Actor and Best Actress nominees will be invited to attend a two-day intensive workshop, during the week of April 19th, that includes voice, acting and dance training with industry professionals to prepare them for the second round of adjudication. The two-day intensive will occur at Spirit Square in small group cohorts with safety protocol in place; full details will be provided in advance. Schools must be willing to excuse daytime absences for their nominees to attend the two-day intensive.

BEST ACTOR/ACTRESS AUDITIONS

The second and final round of adjudication will occur Saturday, April 24, 2021 following the intensives. Each school's Best Actor and Best Actress nominee will be provided an audition time slot and will be adjudicated by a panel of industry professionals such as casting associates, agents, actors, directors, and producers. Students will individually slate and perform a full song as well as participate in a group dance audition combo.

PHYSICAL AWARDS

A beautiful, engraved personal trophy with the Blumey Awards logo and year of participation, will be presented to the Best Actor and Best Actress winners. Schools represented by individual winners will receive duplicates of those trophies. All trophies will be suitable for proudly displaying in any school's awards case.

BLUMEY AWARDS CELEBRATION

If feasible, in lieu of the traditional Blumey Awards ceremony, Blumenthal Performing Arts will produce a Blumey Awards 2021 Celebration, featuring the Best Actor and Best Actress nominees from each participating school while incorporating additional creative content to celebrate the participating schools and to uplift theater education in our area. If in-person, this celebration will be held at the Belk Theater on Sunday, May 23, 2021. Distinguished artists and community members will present the awards. The following student performances will intersperse the award presentations: musical numbers featuring the Best Actor and Best Actress nominees from every participating school and two medleys featuring the top scoring students nominated for Best Actor and Best Actress. The order of performances for the ceremony will be decided by the Blumey Awards Music Director.

PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

1. All public, private, and charter schools in the following counties are eligible to apply for participation in The Blumey Awards.
 - North Carolina: Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanley, Union
 - South Carolina: Chester, Chesterfield, Lancaster, York
2. Schools must register for the Blumey Awards on an individual basis. Schools may not register for the Blumey Awards program as a group of multiple schools or organizations.
3. Due to this year's heavily modified approach, only invited schools - 2020 Blumey Award participating schools and those with unique qualifying circumstances - will be eligible to participate in the 2021 Blumey Awards program. Invited schools must return a completed PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM by December 15, 2020 and meet all deadlines, provided via email communication, to participate.
4. Students must be in 9-12 grade to participate.
5. Audition materials must be selected from a qualifying role in a musical production eligible for participation in the National High School Musical Theatre Awards program, also known as The Jimmy Awards. Qualifying roles (Best Actor and Actress roles) and productions can be found [here](#). If a production is not listed, there is an appeal process in place to have additional productions approved.

SCHOOL CONTACT PERSON / COMMUNICATION

1. The school contact person is the individual to whom all Blumey Award correspondence will be addressed. It is required for this individual to have access to mail, e-mail, and phone calls between the time of registration and the awards ceremony. Only one person at each participating school serves as the primary Blumey Awards contact.
2. The contact person must meet all deadlines including form completion and communication response times.

MANDATORY MEETINGS

A staff representative must attend all mandatory meetings. Due to the ever-changing landscape during COVID-19, additional or impromptu virtual meetings may be announced throughout the year.

AWARD CATEGORY RULES

Only registered high school students from the respective participating Blumey Awards schools are eligible to receive the Best Actor and Best Actress awards.

HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS

Homeschool students enrolled in a course at a participating school may participate when the following guidelines are met:

1. Homeschool students must be in grades 9-12 and registered in at least one academic (graded) class. An enrichment or afterschool program does not qualify as an academic class.
2. The student(s) must not be enrolled in another high school or participate in another high school production.

While homeschool students are ineligible to participate in a production for a school where they are not enrolled, homeschool co-op groups are eligible to participate in the Blumey Awards. Co-ops are treated as a school upon registration. BPA reserves the right to make all eligibility decisions related to casting in homeschool co-op productions.

FEES/TICKETS

1. There is no participation or application fee for the Blumey Awards program.
2. Each participating school will be provided two complimentary tickets to the celebration.
3. Prior to tickets going on sale to the public for Blumey Awards Celebration, each participating school will have the opportunity to purchase group tickets (at a reduced rate) for cast, crew, and show directors.
4. Ticket information for the general public is issued by Blumenthal at least two weeks in advance of the ceremony.

PROMOTION

Blumenthal will provide each participating school with an advertisement for The Blumey Celebration. It is MANDATORY that schools promote the celebration through their school and local resources. The ad highlights each school's participation in THE BLUMEY AWARDS competition and celebration.

PARTICIPATION IN THE CELEBRATION

It is MANDATORY that each participating school's Best Actor and Best Actress nominees participate in the Blumey Award Celebration. The nominees must attend mandatory rehearsals and represent their school in the awards celebration. Failure of any school to participate in the celebration may affect eligibility for future participation in the Blumey Awards program.

BEST ACTOR AND BEST ACTRESS NOMINEES

The Best Actor and Best Actress nominees from each school will be invited to audition before a special panel on Saturday, April 24, 2021. The six nominees for both of these categories will be chosen after the auditions and announced by Tuesday, April 27. During the Blumey Awards Celebration, the Best Actor and Best Actress nominees will perform in a musical medley. Nominees **MUST** attend all of the mandatory rehearsals listed below.

The winners of the Best Actor and Best Actress awards will represent Blumenthal in the National High School Musical Theater Awards (NHSMTA, also known as The Jimmy Awards) in the summer of 2021. Blumenthal will cover all fees for the Best Actor and Best Actress to participate in the virtual NHSMTA in which they will receive professional instruction and compete with students from other regional awards programs for the title of Best National High School Actor and Best National High School Actress. If the winner of the Blumey Awards Best Actor or Best Actress is unable to take part in the National High School Musical Theater Awards program, the nominee with the second highest score will be asked to represent Blumenthal in that competition.

To be eligible for participation in the Jimmy Awards, students selected as Best Actor and Best Actress at their respective regional programs must also have played a NHSMTA-recognized leading role in their regional program. For this reason, the only student participants eligible for The Blumey Awards Best Actor and Best Actress nominations will be those playing NHSMTA-recognized leading roles. Qualifying roles (Best Actor and Actress roles) and corresponding productions can be found [here](#).

MANDATORY REHEARSAL DATES AND TIMES

Students who will perform in the Blumey Awards Celebration are required to attend all tentatively scheduled rehearsals during the week prior to the event.

- Sunday, May 16 from 12:00-8:00 PM
- Monday, May 17 from 5:00-9:00 PM
- Tuesday, May 18 from 5:00-9:00 PM
- Wednesday, May 19 from 5:00-9:00 PM
- Thursday, May 20 from 5:00-9:00 PM
- Friday, May 21 from 6:30-9:00 PM
- Saturday, May 22 from 10:30 AM-5:00 PM
- Sunday, May 23 from 2:00-5:00 PM

*Students may not be called for every rehearsal time but **MUST** have full availability for all dates and times above.

JUDGING & EVALUATION PROCEDURES

JUDGES

Blumenthal Performing Arts will appoint a panel of adjudicators consisting of qualified arts professionals and supporters to serve as Blumey Awards judges. Judges are required to attend a mandatory meeting that will provide an extensive orientation of the program and the evaluation process. The scoring from Blumey judges will be based on a vetted, comprehensive performance rubric.

JUDGING PROCESS

1. Each judge is required to adjudicate at least three schools and will not be assigned to a school for which there may be a conflict of interest.
2. Three judges will evaluate each audition only once.
3. Each school will be notified of the date in which Blumey Awards judges will be adjudicating their auditions.
4. Auditions must occur in-person if possible. Virtual auditions will be offered when in-person is not an option.
5. Students may not start over during their audition packet and will not receive any communication from the judges aside from the calling of their audition number. In the case of a technical error with accompanist or track, the administrative judge will determine if the student can start over and/or where the student should pick back up. If a student makes an error, they must pick back up on their own to continue their audition packet or choose to conclude their audition slot by saying their closing slate.
6. In-person auditions must meet the following requirements for safety (this list is subject to change):
 - Auditions must occur in the school theater/auditorium or other space pre-approved by Blumenthal staff at least two-weeks prior to the adjudication date.
 - Only students and staff necessary for the adjudication process may be in the space; no audience is permitted.
 - Students must be kept in the front of the venue.
 - Three pre-determined judge seats, one each mid-house right, left and center, must be blocked off and sanitized.
 - Each judge seat should have a packet containing the student headshots/resumes.
 - Masks must be worn by everyone in the space; only the student who is actively auditioning may remove their mask when on the stage in a socially distant, prescribed area as designated by the school's teacher/director.
 - Microphones may not be utilized for the auditions.
 - Schools must communicate in advance where the judges can enter the facility, providing an entry point that maintains social distance.
 - Schools must provide their own live accompanist or accompaniment tracks with audio support.
7. Each team of judges is required to meet within 48 hours of the first round to discuss the adjudication.
8. Following the audition package presentations, judges in attendance will individually complete a song and monologue rubric for each participating student.
9. Judges will transfer their respective scores into an online system managed exclusively by an appointed accounting firm and submit their rubrics electronically to an administrative judge to be compiled into one final document.
10. The highest score for each award category will determine respective category winners.

11. All actual scores will be calculated and kept sealed by the accounting firm until the awards ceremony.
12. Blumenthal will send the compiled audition rubrics to each school after completion of the awards ceremony. Schools will not receive numerical scores.
13. All scoring data will remain property of Blumenthal Performing Arts.

NOMINATIONS/WINNERS

1. Only names of Nominees and Winners of each category, not scores, will be made public.
2. Nominations will be sent to all schools via e-mail on Tuesday, April 27, 2021.
3. There will be six nominees for each category.
4. All decisions will be final in all respects.

2021 BLUMEY AWARDS IMPORTANT DATES

December 15, 2020	Registration Deadline
January 24, 2021	Resume and Headshot Workshop
January 25, 2021	Student Participation Form Due
February 1-March 26, 2021	Round 1 Adjudication Window
April 13, 2021	Best Actor/Actress Nominees Announced, Round 1 Feedback Shared
April 19-22, 2021	Best Actor/Actress Nominee Intensives
April 24, 2021	Best Actor/Actress Auditions
April 27, 2021	Best Actor/Actress Top 6 Announced
May 16-23, 2021	Blumey Awards Celebration Rehearsals (tentative)
May 23, 2021	Blumey Awards Celebration (tentative)

**Blumenthal Performing Arts retains the right to all decision-making
in matters requiring interpretation of the above-stated rules and regulations
and for special circumstances not directly addressed by the same.**